



## Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: March 10, 2005

*Editorial Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.*

### **Administrative Business**

Chair Harvey Klein (GSL) called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM. Vinny Mafinsky (JMEUC) made a motion to accept the February meeting minutes with some clarifications made to the NELAC / INELA section by Dr. Mike Miller. The minutes were approved.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

**Laboratory Certification Program:** Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that the renewal applications for FY2006 have been sent out and that laboratories should contact the department if they have not received them by the end of next week. Several applications have been returned because the correct address is not in the database. Part III is updated on the OQA website. The deadline for submission of applications is March 31, 2005.

Harvey Klein (GSL) asked about the fee schedule proposal and Ms. Werner informed the committee that Joe Aiello had been ill and there was no update. Tom Grenci (ECM) asked if the department had considered certifying compost procedures and Dr. Miller answered that those methods were not under consideration.

**PT program:** Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that the PT contract award recommendation had been made but two providers were protesting the award. The director will need to consider the protests. NELAC labs must purchase their own PT samples while the protests are under consideration. ELCP labs can wait for the PT program to be restarted. Ms. Werner stated that purchasing may push for the vendor to be used for the June study especially since DMRQA samples are involved.

Harvey Klein (GSL) stated that this type of contract dispute can be protracted and that NELAC labs should be notified. Rachel Werner stated that the postponement was posted on the OQA website. A letter was sent out notifying labs that the SHW study was postponed.

Vinny Mafinsky (JMEUC) asked if labs should purchase their own DMRQA samples. Ms. Werner replied that labs should purchase any DMRQA samples that they need if a decision has not been made soon.

Harvey Klein (GSL) asked if labs could be informed about the content of the protests being made. Ms. Werner stated that you could obtain the information directly from George Davis in the Treasury department at [George.I.Davis@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:George.I.Davis@dep.state.nj.us). The contract's title is Proficiency Testing Contract.

Mildred Reyes (Chemtech) asked which vendor could be used for PT samples and Ms Werner replied that labs can purchase their PT samples from any approved vendor that will supply VHS data. Ms. Werner informed the committee that suspension letters went out yesterday to labs that had failed two studies. The DW study closed last week.

**NELAC / INELA Update:** Dr. Mike Miller (NJDEP-OQA) stated that the INELA committees are in a frozen status because INELA is not going to purchase ISO 17025 rights. The accrediting authorities have reviewed the NELAC PT policy and will retain the posted policy. Laura Autry (EPA) and her committee are reviewing the proposals that have been made for the development of a system to administer the NELAC-NELAP program and a system to support the development of environmental standards.

**NJQL's:** Dr. Mike Miller stated that major fixes had been made to the database software and that there was no date for testing. Harvey Klein (GSL) mentioned an email sent to him from Dave Speis (Accutest) noting his concerns on some of the filtering proposed for the database. Dr. Miller stated that discussions with the ELAC subcommittee may be needed to resolve those issues.

Harvey Klein asked if the NJQL's would become reporting limits. He noted his concern when a customer of his requested that his lab alter their reporting limits to the RQL's on their sewage treatment plant permit. He stated that his lab reports any detected compounds. Dr. Mike Miller stated that OQA does not establish those limits. Some wastewater permits have RQL's (recommended quantitation limits). These limits never became part of the surface water regulations. Dr. Miller stated that the NJQL's will be analyte and method specific only, not program specific. Dr. Miller mentioned that a problem could occur if the NJQL's are higher than the legal limits established with current PQL's. Henni Krawtschenko (EWMUA) mentioned that her lab performed stream studies for metals that were reported above their detection limits even though they were below the RQL's on their permit. These metals are now being considered for an addition to their permit.

Phil Worby (QCLabs) asked what to do if a client requests a report using their RQL's. Dr. Miller stated that the department cannot address this question. Henni Krawtschenko stated that enforcement informed her that they are not concerned about a detected compound unless the analyte is reported greater than the RQL.

**Bioassay:** No report

**By-Laws:** No report

**Sludge (Biosolids):** No report.

**Communications and OQA Website:** Tom Greci (ECM) reminded the committee of the NJWEA annual conference held May 1-6th in Atlantic City. He also passed out brochures for a seminar named Ground Water 2005 (Technical and Regulatory Update) to be held on April 5, 2005 in East Brunswick, New Jersey.

## **Old Business**

***Bureau of Safe Drinking Water:*** No report

***PWTA:*** No report

## **New Business**

***Announcements:*** No announcements

There were not any other new issues. The meeting adjourned at 10:22 A.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for 09:30 AM on April 14, 2005 – 4th Floor Conference Room.

Note: All visitors must show one form of identification with a photo, or two non-photo IDs, when signing in at a DEP building. This will be performed at all DEP main lobbies in the Trenton complex (401, 501, 440 and 428).

All visitors should be prepared to verify their identification.